



*Working together to promote health equity and well-being for Latin American communities*

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018: 8:00AM – 9:00AM PST**

**Webinar: Network: Health Equity in the Americas**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Ximena Avellaneda, GESMujer

Elysse Bautista, Pro Mujer/UCLA Blum Center

Arachu Castro, Tulane University

Anna Coates, Pan American Health Organization

Anne Dubois, Dubois Betourne & Associates

Robert Hahn, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ilene Hyman, University of Toronto

Andrea Leiva, UCLA Blum Center

Cory Mengual, UCLA Blum Center

Amy Ritterbusch, Universidad de los Andes

Michael Rodriguez, UCLA Blum Center

Rocio Saenz, National University Costa Rica

Alexandre San Pedro, FIOCRUZ

Donald Simeon, University West Indies

Melissa C. Smith, UC Santa Barbara

Eugenia Tarzibachi-, Universidad de Buenos Aires y la Universidad Nacional de San Martín

Manuel Urbina, Investigación en Salud y Demografía –INSAD

## 1. Welcome

Call to action by Michael Rodriguez.

## 2. Declaration of Cuernavaca – Michael Rodriguez

Developed in Cuernavaca at the Summit on Health Equity in the Americas, the Declaration of Cuernavaca has undergone three rounds of revisions from participants and members of the Network. Since there were no additional comments or questions in the meeting, the Declaration now stands ready to build the foundation of the Network, inform and action plan, and provide a frame for our communications.

## 3. Network -Related News

As a recurring meeting agenda item Network members are encouraged to share news related to the Network. News to be shared may include new collaborations, upcoming events, news from member institutions, publication opportunities, etc.

### **Eugenia Tarzibachi, Universidad de Buenos Aires y la Universidad Nacional de San Martín:**

Eugenia shared potential means of collaboration for the network, related to her role as coordinator of the degree program in “Sexual and Reproductive Health” at la Universidad Nacional de San Martín. She is transforming this degree program with an innovative academic agenda of health, gender, and human rights in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where sexual and reproductive health will just be one item on the agenda. For those of the Network that would like to contribute to this initiative, Eugenia seeks specialists in each theme. Her university is also open to institutional partnerships, whether to produce courses or research projects on health and gender and she seeks financing to have the degree program conclude with research projects on gender and health. She would like to develop a laboratory of best practices in Argentina to improve strategies.

**Action Item:** Network members who have information or expertise to share are encouraged to contact Eugenia at [etarzibachi@gmail.com](mailto:etarzibachi@gmail.com)

### **Anna Coates, Pan American Health Organization:**

“The Director of PAHO (Carissa F. Etienne) has just been elected to a second term, and has begun some restructuring of the organization. That has meant that the unit on Gender & Diversity has been upgraded and we are now “The Office for Gender and Cultural Diversity” as a separate entity under PAHO’s deputy director. We are very optimistic about this; we see this as PAHO’s commitment to seeing gender and cultural diversity as central to PAHO’s mandate, and specifically to the Director’s objectives during this second term. The director will be interested in looking at how health policies and programs, integrate equity, gender and ethnic equality objectives and approaches.”

## 4. Network Governance/Structure Subcommittee: Vision, Mission, Goals – Rocio Saenz, Universidad Nacional -Costa Rica

From the work of the Governance/Structure Subcommittee, Network Vision, Mission, and Goals have emerged. The overarching Vision of the Network is intersectoral collaboration to promote health equity and equality in the Americas. This is directly tied to the Network Mission of “promoting knowledge-sharing and intersectoral action to promote equity in health and human rights as a priority issue in the Americas”. In order to do so, the Network will ensure a commitment to the core values of Action, Human Rights, Diversity, Intersectorality, Horizontality, Inclusion, and Commitment. From this broad Vision and Mission, the Governance/Structure Subcommittee distilled three concrete goals: 1) To Identify, develop and share promising health equity policies and practices based on a human rights

approach; 2) To encourage action on promoting health through health equity policies and practices that consider social determinants of health and human rights; and 3) To monitor public policies, government accountability, progress and impact of actions on policies and practices promoting health equity and human rights.

## 5. Network Action:

Call for PAHO Commission Report Contributions – Already, 7 original reports, 8 published articles, and 1 editorial have been submitted to the PAHO Commission. In order to expand opportunities to contribute, UCL is currently waiting for their upgrade for more participants to be applied on their Active Collab platform. So far 8 individuals have been sent invitations to contribute through this platform, and once the upgrade is complete, this will allow additional names/emails to be registered and for all network members to be sent invitations to contribute. The broad topic areas for contributions include: Social and Biological Factors; Socioeconomic and Political Context; and Pathways to Health. Contributions do not need to be published work.

**Action Item:** Members are encouraged to submit materials and participate in the platform once they have received the email invitation.

Scholarly article for publication – Arachu Castro, Tulane University – A short manuscript will be submitted to Lancet regarding the Network in order to bring attention to the issue to health equity in the Americas, as well as drawing attention and interest to the network.

Summit 2017 Report- The Summit Report continues to develop, currently in its second draft. Once completed, this will be shared with the Network to serve as a tool for sharing information about the Network.

Communications – We are currently working on a plan for strategic communications so that we can meet the objectives of the Network. There are several dimensions of Network communication which will need attention, including developing a listserv, developing a website and other online presence, continuing to have monthly webinars, as well as developing procedures to use email effectively.

**Action Item:** Moving forward monthly webinars are suggested last Wednesday of every month at 11 AM ET / 8 AM PT. Next webinar will take place Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 11 AM ET / 8 AM PT.